U.S. Department of Justice



United States Attorney District of Maryland Northern Division

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September 15, 2004 FOR IMMEDIATE RELASE

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ABERDEEN MAN SENTENCED TO 64 MONTHS IN PRISON AND SUPERVISED RELEASE FOR LIFE FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORN

Baltimore, Maryland – United States Attorney Thomas M. DiBiagio announced that Morris Lacy Chapman, age 53 of Aberdeen, Maryland was sentenced today by United States District Court Judge William D. Quarles, Jr. to 64 months in prison followed by supervised release for life, for possession of child pornography. It is believed that this is the first time that supervised release has been imposed in the District of Maryland for a term of life for child pornography offenses.

According to the statement of facts filed in support of Chapman's guilty plea, on December 17, 2003 Chapman possessed 18 photographs which contained a visual depiction of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct. The photographs were found in a locker used by the defendant at his place of employment on the Aberdeen Proving Ground. Chapman previously asked a friend to remove the defendant's personal effects from the locker, and to bring them to the defendant's home. Instead, the defendant's friend requested that civilian security personnel at the Proving Grounds remove the defendant's belongings from the locker. The security personnel

discovered the photographs and turned them over to the Military Police at the Proving Ground. The Military Police interviewed the defendant the following day and Chapman admitted that he was the adult male in the photographs. The Military Police then notified the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

On January 15, 2004 the FBI interviewed Chapman who identified the minor female in the photographs and admitted that she was approximately 9 years old when the sexually explicit conduct depicted in the photographs took place. Chapman took the photographs in about 1979 using a Polaroid camera.

According to Chapman's plea agreement, production of child pornography was not a federal crime in 1979 and for this reason he could only be prosecuted for possession of the photographs which he had produced 25 years ago.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Bel Office and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew Norman.